

June 12, 1969

L-11300

Deputy Tran-ngoc-Chau
Secretary General
House of Deputies
Republic of Vietnam
13 Lam Son Square
Saigon

Dear Chau:

I was delighted to hear from you and to receive your papers, which I have distributed within Rand. I am sorry not to have answered you sooner, but a number of people with whom I hoped to confer on arranging sponsorship of your trip have been away, and in fact, Charlie Wolf is out of town still. However, after talking to Fred Iklé and Jim Digby, I am very happy to be able to tell you that Rand is prepared to pay your travel and expenses and a modest stipend for consultation here for about one month. Actually, there are funds available for you to stay longer if that seems fruitful. On the other hand, if you would prefer to make arrangements to spend some time in this country elsewhere, you might want to spend a shorter time here, though I personally would hope you could spend at least a couple weeks.

Perhaps John Vann, through his many contacts, could arrange other consultations or speaking engagements for you -- some of which might be able to offer a higher honorarium, if that is a consideration -- though again, from my personal point of view I hope you can spend as much time here as possible. Nothing could please me more than to be your host in Los Angeles, and I look forward intensely to renewing our long conversations.

In view of your position in the government, we must clear this proposal with State, so you will have to regard the above invitation as informal and tentative as yet. I have cabled Ev Bungardner asking him to help clear this through the Embassy. I have also cabled the Rand representative in Saigon, Joan Allen, to contact Ev in this connection and, through Ev, you; and no doubt you have already heard from them. The timing of the trip would be up to you. We will regard the primary topic to be discussed as pacification theory, but of course, that need not restrict our discussions. Rand would expect that you would have time to leave some thoughts on paper while you were here.

Deputy Tran-ngoc-Chau

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I hope that the "family drama" alluded to in your recent press conference and in the clipping you sent is not causing you trouble. Might it affect your ability to leave the country -- or to get back in? I hope not. In any case, I hope very much you will be able to come and I will let you know more definitely from this end as soon as I can.

Yours,

Daniel Ellsberg

DE:ca

bcc: J. Digby
C. Wolf ✓
F. Ikle